

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [00143] with the following amended paragraph:

[00143] FIGS. 17A through [[17D]] 17C schematically illustrate the use of prong **1620** to puncture and create a hanging chad in the wall **1710** of receptacle **1700**. Although receptacle **1700** is illustrated in the shape of a capsule, it should be understood that the receptacle may have any other suitable shape, such as a tablet or a blister pack. Receptacle **1700** has a longitudinal axis **1770** substantially parallel to prong **1620** and a minor axis **1780** substantially perpendicular to longitudinal axis **1770**.

Please replace paragraph [00144] with the following amended paragraph:

[00144] As shown in FIG. 17A, puncturing surface **1630** of prong **1620** initially punctures a small opening **1740** in wall **1710**. Next, as shown in FIG. 17B, prong **1620** is inserted into receptacle **1700** to a depth **D**, increasing the size of opening **1740** and forming chad **1750** having free end **1755**. Substantially planar face **1650** forms a hinge **1760** between chad **1750** and wall **1710** so that chad **1750** is a hanging chad. Finally, as shown in FIG. 17C, prong **1620** is withdrawn from wall **1710**, leaving ~~hanging~~ hanging chad **1750** inside of receptacle **1700**. Preferably, the angle **A** between chad **1750** and minor axis **1780**, after prong ~~1600~~ 1620 has been removed from receptacle **1700**, is at least 30 to 45 degrees in order to facilitate efficient emptying of the receptacle and a high emitted dose.

Please replace paragraph [00145] with the following amended paragraph:

[00145] Several experiments were performed to evaluate the emitted doses achieved using puncturing device ~~1630~~1600. The tests were done with size 00 capsules containing approximately 20 mg per capsule and using a flow rate of approximately 20 L/min for 1.5 seconds.

Please replace paragraph [00149] with the following amended paragraph:

[00149] Other experiments were performed to determine the puncturing depth that could be achieved using puncturing device ~~1630~~1600. First, Staple #3, another prototype having

almost the same structure as Staples #1 and #2, was used to puncture capsules to varying depths. It was determined that the capsules could consistently be punctured to a depth of 0.1495 inches without causing chads to become removed. Next, Staple #5, another prototype of puncturing device **1600** illustrated in FIGS. 16A-D, was used to puncture capsules to varying depths. It was determined that the prongs could be inserted to a depth of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length **L** (see FIG. 16B) of the prongs, or approximately 0.2442 inches, without causing the chads to become removed. Accordingly, puncturing device **1600** illustrated in FIGS. 16A-D has significant advantages over other puncturing means because it allows greater depth of puncturing, which allows for greater optimization of the inhaler.

Please replace paragraph **[00151]** with the following amended paragraph:

[00151] As shown in FIGS. 18 and 19A-19C, in another embodiment of the present invention, device **100** comprises a means for indicating readiness **1800** of the device for emitting powder-~~**1800**~~. The means for indicating readiness **1800** comprises a body **1820** coupled to inner casing **124** and disposed in outer casing **126**. Body **1820** is reversibly moveable between a first position, as shown in FIGS. 18, 19A and 19C, and a second position, as shown in FIG. 19B. Body **1820** preferably is coupled to compression spring **244** so that it is biased in the first position. In a preferred embodiment, body **1820** comprises a hollow tube of oblong cross section, although it should be understood that body **1820** may have any other suitable shape, such as a round cylinder or rod.